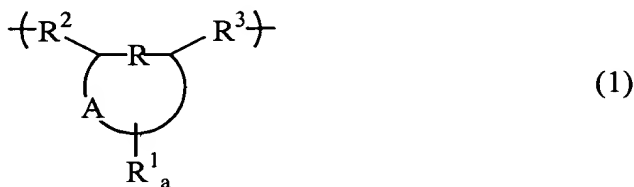


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer comprising recurring units of a compound of the following general formula (1):



wherein A is a divalent aliphatic or alicyclic hydrocarbon group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, R^1 is an alkyl group containing at least one fluorine atom, and which may contain optionally contains a hetero atom such as oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur to form an ether, ester, carbonate, alcohol, acetoxy or thioester, "a" is a positive number of 1 to 3, R is a single bond, methylene group, oxygen atom, NH group or sulfur atom, and R^2 and R^3 each are a single bond or methylene group.

2. (Original) The polymer of claim 1 further comprising recurring units containing acid labile groups.

3. (Previously Amended) A chemically amplified resist composition comprising the polymer of claim 1.

4. (Previously Amended) A chemically amplified positive resist composition comprising

- (A) the polymer of claim 1,
- (B) an organic solvent, and
- (C) a photoacid generator.

5. (Original) The resist composition of claim 4 further comprising a basic compound.

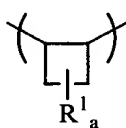
6. (Original) The resist composition of claim 4 further comprising a dissolution inhibitor.

Rule 136 Ad
8. (New) A polymer of claim 1, wherein the heteroatom is oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur.

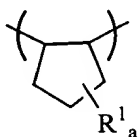
9. (New) A polymer of claim 7, wherein, due to the presence of the heteroatom, R^1 is in the form of an ether, ester, carbonate, alcohol, acetoxy or thioester group.

10. (New) A polymer of claim 1, wherein R is a single bond or methylene.

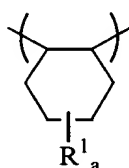
11. (New) A polymer of claim 1, wherein the recurring units of formula (1) are selected from formulae (2)-1, (2)-2, (2)-3, (2)-4, (2)-5, (2)-6, (2)-7, (2)-8, and (2)-9



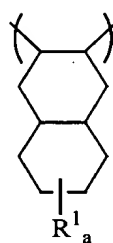
(2)-1



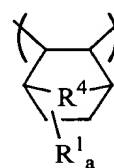
(2)-2



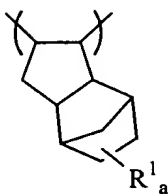
(2)-3



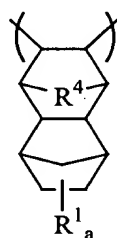
(2)-4



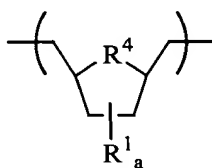
(2)-5



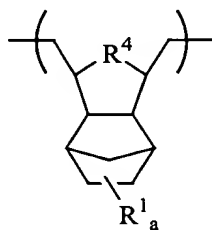
(2)-6



(2)-7



(2)-8



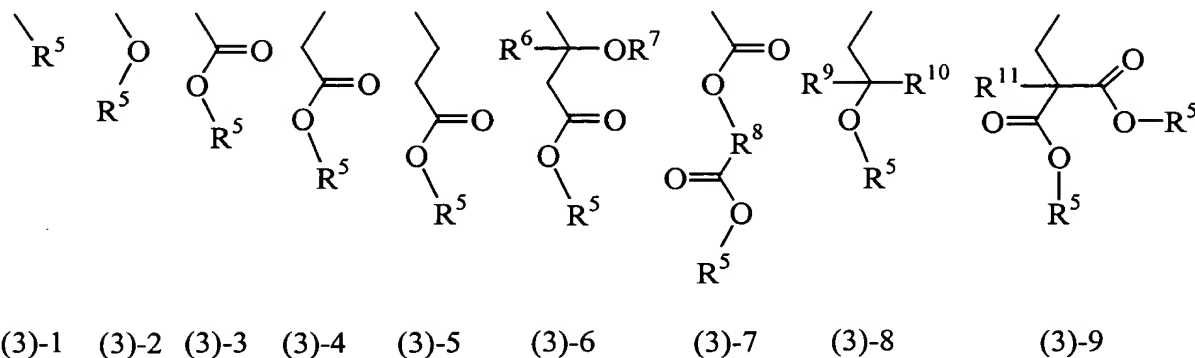
(2)-9

wherein

R^4 is a methylene group, oxygen atom, NH group or sulfur atom,

"a" is a positive number of 1 to 3, and

R¹ is selected from formulae (3)-1, (3)-2, (3)-3, (3)-4, (3)-5, (3)-6, (3)-7, (3)-8, and (3)-9



wherein

R⁵ is a fluorinated alkyl group which optionally contains an ether or ester bond,

R⁶ and R¹¹ are, each independently, hydrogen or a straight alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

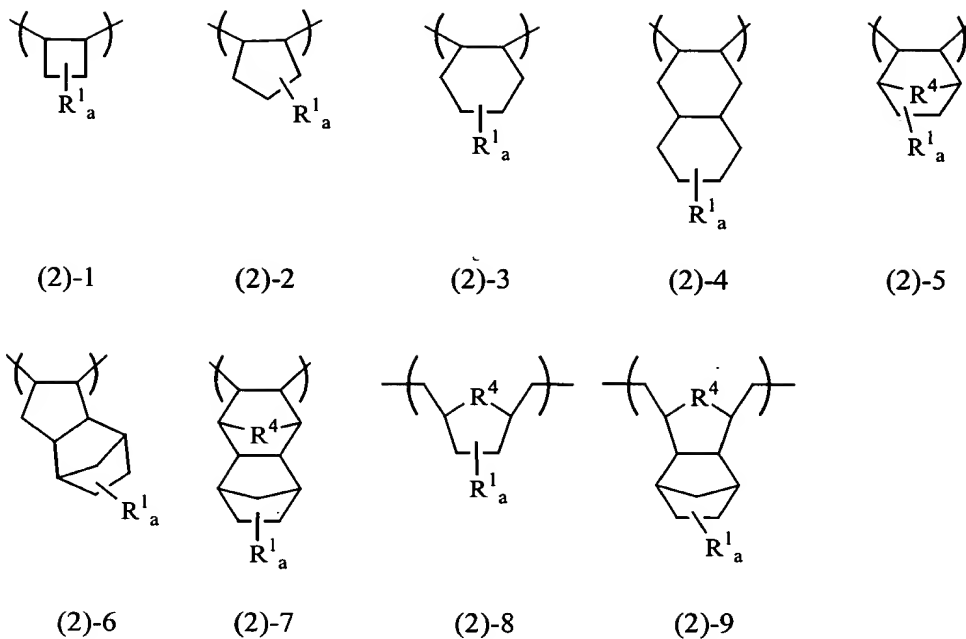
R⁷ is hydrogen, a straight alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or -C=O-R¹²,

R¹² is hydrogen or a straight alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and

R⁸ is an alkylene group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

wherein either one or both of R⁹ and R¹⁰ are alkyl groups of 1 to 5 carbon atoms having at least one fluorine atom substituted thereon.

12.
11. (New) A polymer of claim 1, wherein the recurring units of formula (1) are selected from formulae (2)-1, (2)-2, (2)-3, (2)-4, (2)-5, (2)-6, (2)-7, (2)-8, and (2)-9

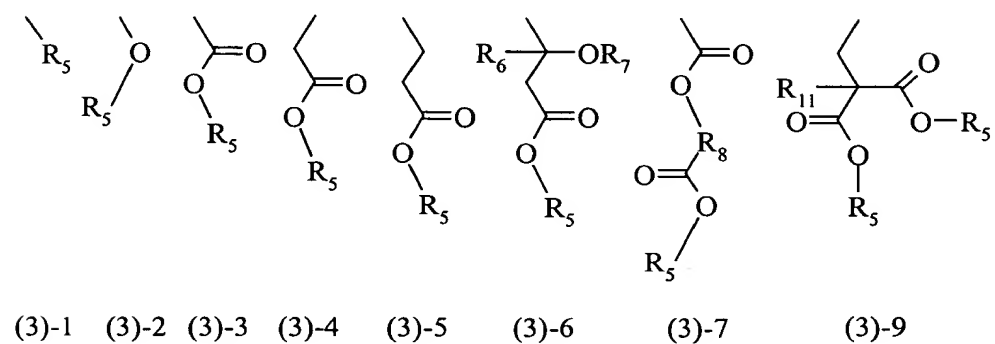


wherein

R^4 is a methylene group, oxygen atom, NH group or sulfur atom,

"a" is a positive number of 1 to 3, and

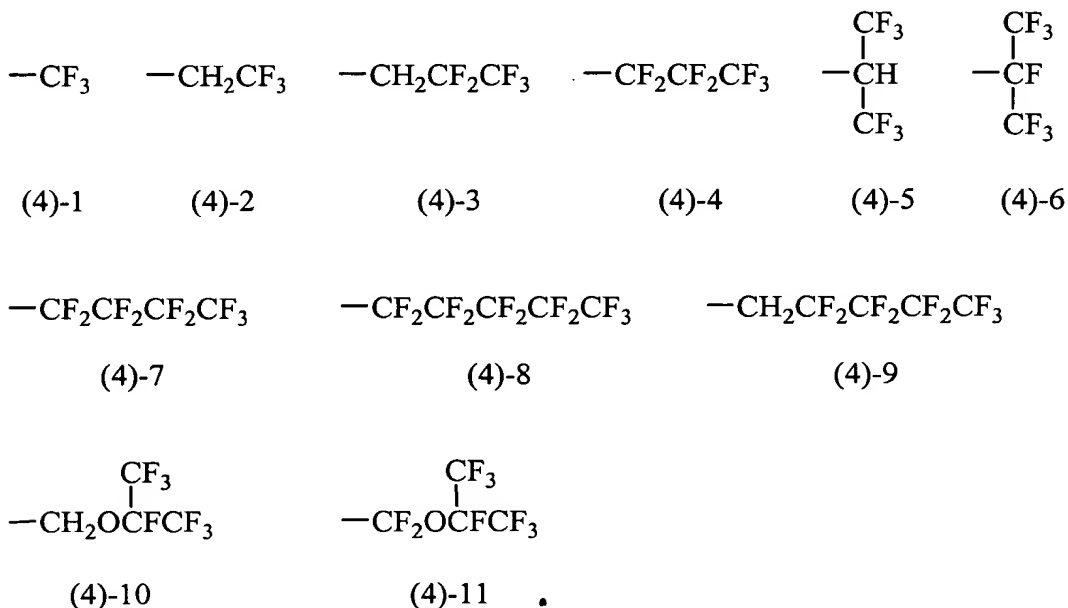
R^1 is selected from formulae (3)-1, (3)-2, (3)-3, (3)-4, (3)-5, (3)-6, (3)-7, and (3)-9



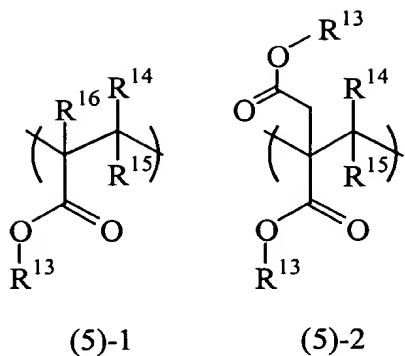
wherein

R^5 is a fluorinated alkyl group which optionally contains an ether or ester bond,
 R^6 and R^{11} are, each independently, hydrogen or a straight alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms,
 R^7 is hydrogen, a straight alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or $-C=O-R^{12}$,
 R^{12} is hydrogen or a straight alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and
 R^8 is an alkylene group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

~~12.~~ ^{13.} (New) A polymer according to claim 10, wherein R^5 is selected from formulae (4)-1, (4)-2, (4)-3, (4)-4, (4)-5, (4)-6, (4)-7, (4)-8, (4)-9, (4)-10 and (4)-11



~~13.~~ ^{14.} (New) A polymer of claim 1, further comprising recurring units of a (meth)acrylic compound of formula (5)-1 or (5)-2

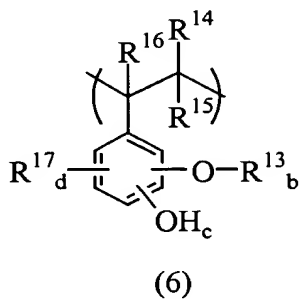


wherein

R^{13} is an acid labile group, and

R^{14} , R^{15} and R^{16} are, each independently, a hydrogen atom, fluorine atom, or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which are, each independently, optionally substituted with fluorine.

15.
14. (New) A polymer of claim 1, further comprising recurring units of a styrene compound of formula (6)



wherein

R^{13} is an acid labile group,

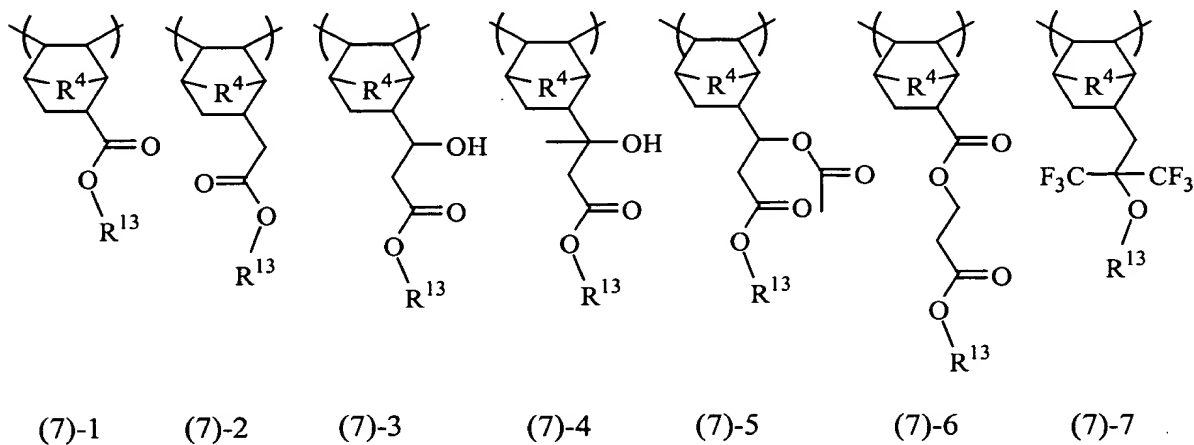
R^{14} , R^{15} and R^{16} are, each independently, a hydrogen atom, fluorine atom, or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which are, each independently, optionally substituted with fluorine,

R^{17} is a hydrogen atom, fluorine atom, or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which is optionally substituted with fluorine,

b is a positive number of 1 to 5, and

c and d are, each independently, 0 or a positive number of 1 to 4.

¹⁶
~~15.~~ (New) A polymer of claim 1, further comprising recurring units of a norbornene compound selected from formulae (7)-1, (7)-2, (7)-3, (7)-4, (7)-5, (7)-6, and (7)-7

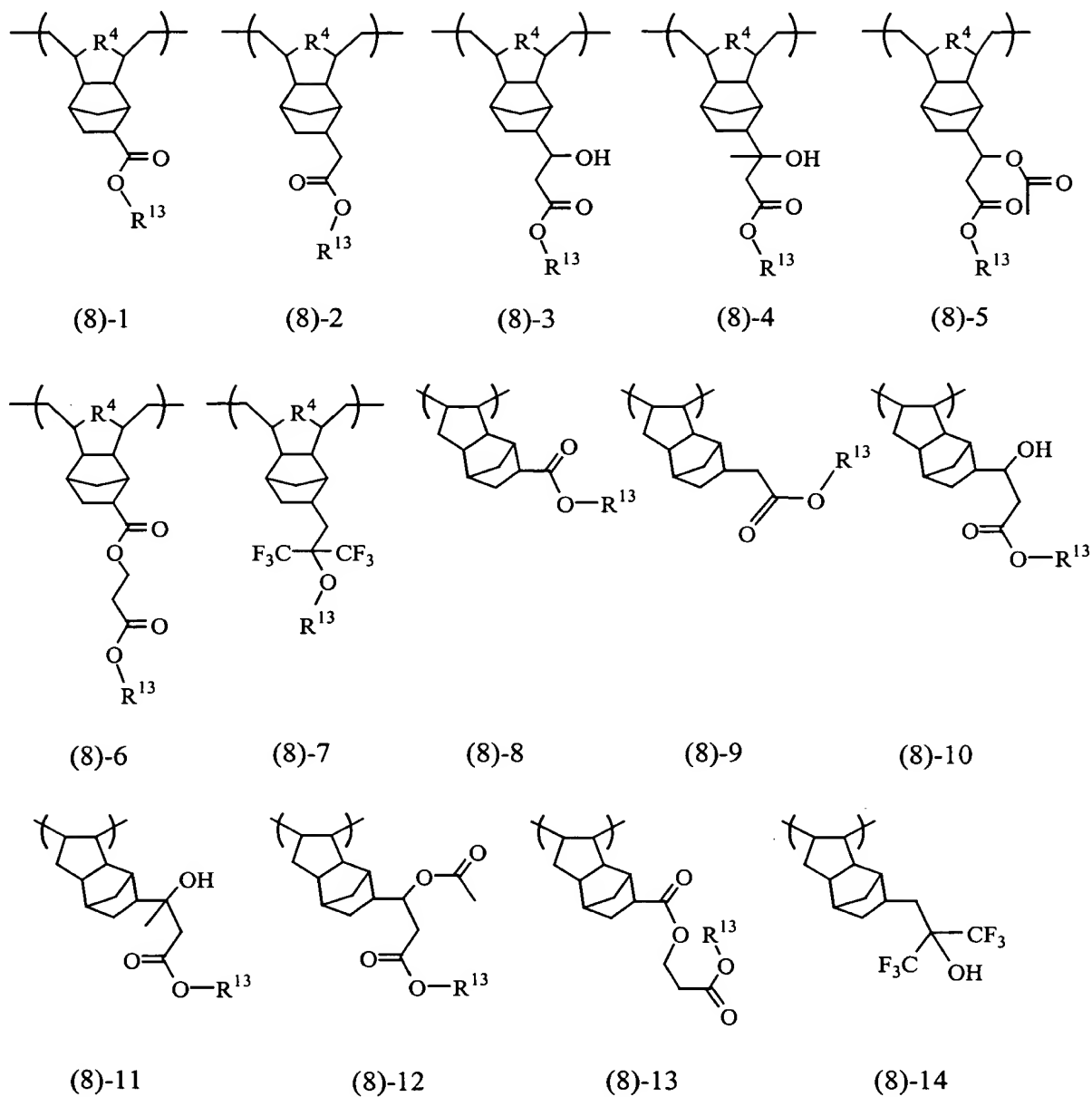


wherein

R^4 is a methylene group, oxygen atom, NH group or sulfur atom, and

R^{13} is an acid labile group.

¹⁷
~~16.~~ (New) A polymer of claim 1, further comprising recurring units of a tricyclodecene compound selected from formulae (8)-1, (8)-2, (8)-3, (8)-4, (8)-5, (8)-6, (8)-7, (8)-8, (8)-9, (8)-10, (8)-11, (8)-12, (8)-13, and (8)-14

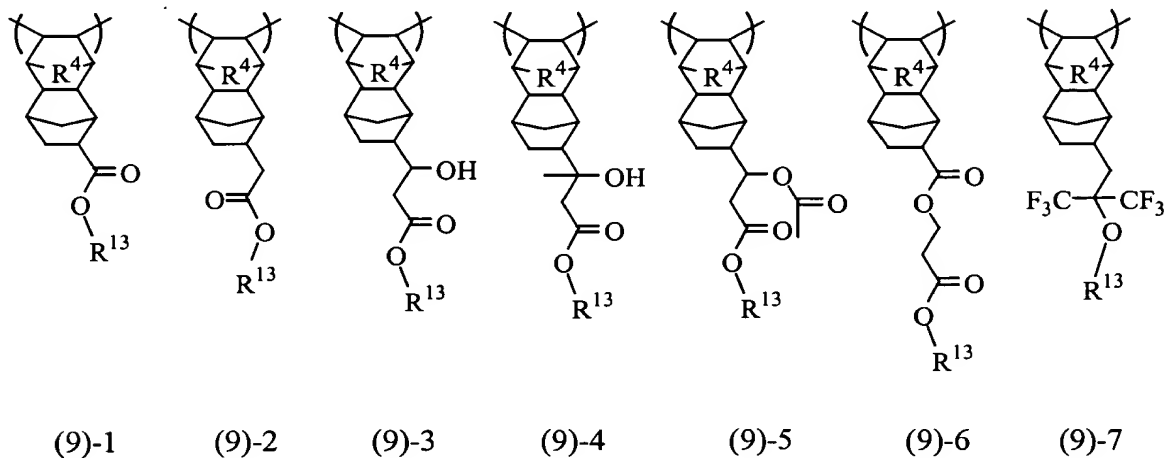


wherein

R^4 is a methylene group, oxygen atom, NH group or sulfur atom, and

R^{13} is an acid labile group.

- ~~17.~~ (New) A polymer of claim 1, further comprising recurring units of a tetracyclododecene compound selected from formulae (9)-1, (9)-2, (9)-3, (9)-4, (9)-5, (9)-6, and (9)-7

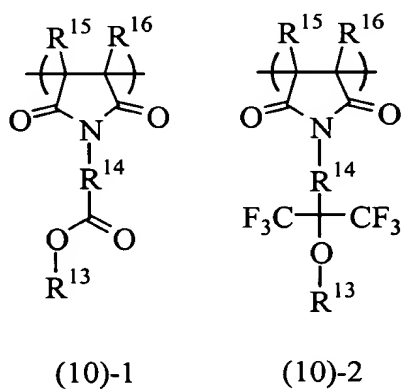


wherein

R^4 is a methylene group, oxygen atom, NH group or sulfur atom, and

R^{13} is an acid labile group.

- ~~18.~~ (New) A polymer of claim 1, further comprising recurring units of a maleimide compound of formula (10)-1 or (10)-2



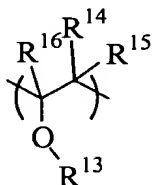
wherein

R^{13} is an acid labile group,

Rule 56
A2
 R^{14} is a single bond or an alkylene group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and

R^{15} and R^{16} are, each independently, hydrogen, fluorine, methyl or trifluoromethyl.

~~19.~~ ^{20.} (New) A polymer of claim 1, further comprising recurring units of a vinyl alcohol compound of formula (11)



wherein

R^{13} is an acid labile group, and

R^{14} , R^{15} and R^{16} are, each independently, a hydrogen atom, fluorine atom, or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which are, each independently, optionally substituted with fluorine.

~~20.~~ ^{21.} (New) A polymer according to claim 1, said polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 1,000,000.

~~21.~~ ^{22.} (New) In a process of preparing a polymer, the improvement wherein a monomer of formula (1) of claim 1 is used.

~~22.~~ ^{23.} (New) In a process of forming a resist composition or a resist pattern, the improvement wherein a polymer of claim 1 is used.
